Panchayats—Cranganur—Rs. 1,334

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* Sir, I move for a grant of Rs. 1,334 under "Panchayats—Cranganur."

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* Sir, I have tabled a cut motion under this demand. I do not know whether I can move it.

Deputy President: It is not possible.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* My contention is that this is not a part of the grant under the State budget, but it is a separate grant altogether. The rules only say that one demand should be put to vote, on one day.

Mr. T. P. Poulose *(Kanayannur):* Sir, there has been a ruling on this point by the President that the demand under Cranganur as well as the State budget will be treated as one demand.

Deputy President: There may be a ruling.

Mr. T. P. Poulose *(Kanayannur):* The Hon'ble President has also ruled that, as far as cut motions relating to Cranganur are concerned, they may be taken along with the cut motions coming under the State budget.

Deputy President: The hon'ble member should take only the minimum time in the House for explaining his motion.

Cut Motion

To liberalise the provision for Cranganur

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,334 for Panchayat—Cranganur by Re. 1.

(To discuss the inadequate provision and the need to be occasionally more liberal).

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* Sir, I am not going to take up much time of the House. The only point that I would like to raise is that, with regard to Cranganur, the provision for Village Panchayats seems to be either stationary or retrograde. It is just like the so called attack on democracy when we supported Mr. Iyyu's motion a few minutes back. In this connection, I would like to place before the House a few figures for the last 5 or 6 years to bring to the notice of the House what exactly is the provision made for Cranganur. In 1110, the total figure allotted under

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Panchayat in Cranganur was Rs. 670, a gorgeous sum for 18½ square miles of His Highness' territory. The year before, it came to Rs. 534 and then subsequently, in 1113, it was Rs. 612 and it has been almost hovering down that figure of Rs. 600. My submission is, it is really very hard for a good portion of His Highness' subjects to be deprived of the ordinary amenities of life by this sort of scanty provision that villages in Cranganur has got. The argument of the Government for the last so many years has been that the Cranganur principality must meet its demand out of its own income. In this connection, I may bring to the notice of this House that as regards receipts, the Cranganur principality is getting its due share under every head excepting under the head "Customs". Now my submission to the House is, if the individuality of Cranganur is recognised by the Government, there is absolutely no reason whatsoever in depriving her of her income under Customs. If the *per capita* income under "Customs" is given to Cranganur, the Hon'ble Minister will not at all find it difficult to attend to the needs of Cranganur. I would like to place one more fact before this House, *i.e.*, in the matter of allocation of the 1 lakh of rupees given for rural reconstruction, I was led to hope that a more liberal provision would have been made for Cranganur. That hope was based upon something which I regarded as a reassuring suggestion of the Diwan. But unfortunately for me and my constituency, I was disillusioned and only the old figure of Rs. 2,500 has been allowed for the Methala Panchayat. I do not also forget that a sum of Rs. 750 has been additionally allotted for Cranganur. I am not trying to hide figures. My submission is that something drastic must be done in regard to Cranganur. Either Cranganur may be treated as a part of His Highness' domains or not a part of his domains. There is no meaning whatsoever in adhering to the old provisions year after year when the needs of the people are increasing. Either give us Dominion Status or treat us as a part of the State. There cannot be a *via media*. Treat us as a part of the Empire or give us Dominion Status with power to raise money for our own needs. The niggardly and parsimonious provision for Cranganur can be very well illustrated by referring to very few figures under the head "Communications". In 1116, for Communications (maintenance), there is only a provision of Rs. 300, for original works Rs. 200, and for repairs, nil. For the last four years there has been no original works at all. I am particularly grateful to the Minister for this extraordinarily large sum of Rs. 300 for improving communications in Cranganur. My submission is, for 18½ square miles a more liberal provision ought to be made. I request that some sort of remedy might be devised by the Hon'ble Minister so that one part of the

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country is not wholly and thoroughly neglected. I commend this motion for the acceptance of the House.

*Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* Sir, I quite appreciate the legitimate complaints raised by the hon'ble member representing Cranganur. All the time I have been in this House, I was pleading for the cause of Cranganur. Therefore, my hon'ble friend won't think that I am against his aspirations. But the difficulty is, as he himself pointed out, this rather unsatisfactory basis of relations that exist between the two parts of the State. We cannot treat it as a taluk and if we treat it as a separate entity, then this difficulty arises. There is a deficit budget this year also for Cranganur.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* I only suggested that as regards the receipt side Government always fail to make provision for a portion of the Customs to be given to Cranganur.

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* That is a big question. I quite see the point. But so far as this department is concerned, no taluk or any part of Cochin State has been so favourably treated as Cranganur. For, while other panchayats will get their contribution of Rs. 2,500 only once in 15 years or so, Cranganur shall go on getting this Rs. 2,500 year after year. That is the arrangement we have made, so that Cranganur may not complain that she has been neglected.

Mr. Ismail Hajee Essa Sait *(Mattancheri):* Is this Rs. 2,500 for the Methala Panchayat or for the whole of Cranganur?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* It is for the whole of Cranganur. So, while other Panchayats get their contribution only once in 12 or 14 years, Cranganur will be getting it year after year so long as this distribution of 1 lakh of rupees goes on. This has been laid down as a cardinal principle of policy. What more favourable treatment can anyone expect? As a matter of fact Cranganur is treated very favourably, considering the deficiency in their budget. That is the only way by which we can help Cranganur, that is, by giving a substantial and regular payment of a reasonable proportion year after year. I hope this explanation will satisfy the House. We have not the least intention to do anything unsatisfactory to Cranganur. The House may rest assured that as far as possible the interests of Cranganur will always command the attention of the department and everything that we possibily can do will be done and wherever possible even additional work will be undertaken if funds are available.

*Speech not corrected by the hon'ble member

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Mr. K. M. Ibrahim *(Cranganur):* Sir, we are impressed with the sympathy of the Hon'ble Minister in this respect. But I am afraid that the reserved half has not done its duty by Cranganur. There has been a public announcement of an annual contribution of Rs. 10,000 by the Government. But that promise has not been kept up.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts):* That is being paid.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim *(Cranganur):* The mover himself put me on the wrong track. This House, Sir, has on a previous occasion, by a definite vote.....

Deputy President: I have allowed Mr. Bhaskara Menon to speak as a special case not thinking that the two demands are distinct. The demands for State and Cranganur are one demand.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim *(Crangannur):* We appreciate that concession.

Deputy President: Now that we have already taken up 10 minutes for the discussion of this motion, I hope the hon'ble member will please finish his speech soon.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim *(Cranganur):* Sir, the point I want to stress is that while the rest of the whole State is getting its full quota of the Customs revenue, there is no reason why Cranganur should not get its legitimate portion. I submit to the House that this is not the first time that Cranganur has been ventilating its grievances in this House. I remember an occasion when I mooted this subject through a cut motion and the non-official members of this House were pleased to record their votes by a non-official majority urging that the portion accruing to Cranganur, that is, 1/6 of the Customs revenue, should be given to her. My complaint is that this demand of the non-official section of this House has not been honoured as yet. Even granting that an accurate division of 1/6 cannot be given to Cranganur, having regard to the exigencies of the financial position of the State, I submit we have got a legitimate claim at least for a fair portion of the Customs revenue which, when realized, will remedy the complaint that various public utility undertakings of Cranganur have been neglected so far. I request that the Government be pleased to look into this matter and see whether something more cannot be done in this direction.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* Sir, I fully appreciate the remarkable sympathy shown by the Hon'ble Minister. But then, the one fact that the Hon'ble Minister ought to know is that

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Cranganur consists of 2 Panchayats as well as one section of a Panchayat divided by the backwater. That Cranganur has been favourably treated in comparison with other parts of the country, I am prepared to concede. But then, the further difficulty is caused by the river. The Pullut section being separate from Cranganur, some real remedy will have to be devised. Anyhow, with the assurance of the Hon'ble Minister, I beg leave of the House to withdraw the motion.

Motion by leave withdrawn

The grant of Rs. 1,334 under 3-Panchayats—Cranganur put and carried.

19. Education—Rs. 18,89,061

***Rao Sahib I. N. Menon** *(Director of Public Instrucion):* Mr. President Sir, it has been my usual custom in placing my departmental estimates before this House for its vote to offer a resume of the main incidents that had marked the history of the department for the previous 12 months as also a classified abstract of figures relating to the main budget head. I have followed this practice for the last 7 or 8 years, but I find from my experience of subjects of discussion that have taken place in this House on the estimates that such an introductory explanation served no useful purpose. In the second place, the activities of the department of education are so well known to the public and figures are so clear that I have no excuse whatever for taking up the time of this House by a reiteration of figures which you will find tabulated in the printed estimates themselves. I notice, one or two salient features not so much of the budget but of the reception it has received already in this House from the cut motions that have been tabled by hon'ble members of this House. I have been very fortunate, Sir, in that the House has more or less tentatively approved of the estimates themselves although several hon'ble members have their protests against certain administrative acts by tabling these cut motions. I find among the cut motions, one or two old protests which used to figure in cut motions relating to this department. I find some new protests also, protests which are very original. For instance, there is a cut motion demanding the abolition of the Government Training Institution. It is shockingly novel, but I am absolutely certain that the hon'ble member has tabled it more as a protest than as a genuine grievance.

* Speech not corrected by the hon'ble member.

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